

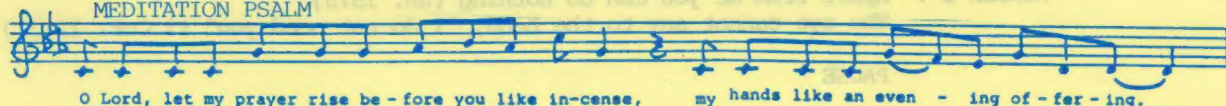
OPENING HYMN The Confiter - Response All Miserere nobis

INTRODUCTION

INVITATION AND GATHERING PRAYER

FIRST READING Ezechiel 36:24-28

MEDITATION PSALM



ACCLAMATION Alleluia. Alleluia. My friend, your sins are forgiven.

GOSPEL READING Lk 5:17-26

HOMILY

RESPONSE Profession of Faith of Baptism :
We acknowledge and confess our sins and confidently expect reconciliation
because we believe in a compassionate God revealed in Jesus.

THE CREED I believe in God the Supreme Being who shows us a perfect parental love. Her power is without limit. He brings into being each moment the universe and all that exists. I believe in Jesus, the expected Messiah, called the Christ. He is the perfect human reflection of God's divine character and is himself God. He was sent by God with the authority of the Supreme to be our liberator, whom we call Lord.

I believe that Jesus was brought into human existence by a special act of God's intervention through the Divine Spirit of power and wisdom and love.

By the Holy Spirit Jesus was generated in the body of the ever-virgin Mary, his human mother. I believe that Jesus lived among men and women and shared our joys and sorrows while remaining free from sin.

He endured suffering for our sake, was unjustly convicted under Pontius Pilate, and was crucified.

I believe that Jesus died with the finality of any human death and that he was buried in a tomb according to Jewish custom.

He then descended into the lowest depths but on the third day after his death, God raised him back to physical life and elevated him to a permanent state of glory and victory over sin and death. He now shares equal dominion over all things with God.

I believe that Jesus will manifest himself again in his full glory to all humankind, and will reveal the status of every person who ever lived in the light of the divine justice and love which Jesus taught us through his examples during his lifetime.

I believe in the inclusive group of all human beings who do God's will and are considered by God as daughters and sons, as Jesus is, and who nourish their holiness from him.

I believe in the loving community of all such persons, past and present, and in their ability to effect good for one another and to mediate God's presence to one another.

I believe that our offences are not held against us by God if we return to loving harmony and forgive those who have offended us.

I believe that we will be given spiritual bodies, glorious and perfect, like the body of Christ transformed, the permanent condition in which we will share forever, with complete consciousness, the divine nature of God with Jesus.

Amen.

EXAMEN OF CONSCIENCE #3

Celebrant: Let us allow God's Word to illumine our hearts, and bring to light what may be hidden even from our own eyes - the ways in which we choose darkness over the light of Christ.

RESPONSE : Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

READER 1 : Apart from me you can do nothing (Jn. 15:5)
The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you" (1 Cor. 12:21)

PAUSE

READER 2 : Do I accept my dependance on the Lord and on other people?
Do I allow myself to experience this dependance, or do I cherish the illusion that I am self-sufficient?
Am I able to receive (love, help, sympathy, concern, advice, correction, praise) as well as give?
Do other dependencies (alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, sex, money, diversions, status, power) mask my need for God? for others.

RESPONSE : Forgive us, Lord, for forgetting you in whom we live and have our being.

READER 1 : The Son of God was never Yes and No; with him it was always Yes (2 Cor.2:19)

PAUSE

READER 2 : Do I strive to be consistent in dealing with my family, friends, co-workers, or am I moody and changeable?
Do I treat promises lightly?
Do I keep my word in small as well as important matters, whether convenient or not?
Do I excuse myself too readily from taking a stand on matters of principle?

RESPONSE : Lord, help us to love others as you have loved us.

READER 1 : You are the salt of the earth;...you are the light of the world(Mt.5:13,14)

PAUSE

READER 2 : Do I try to uncover the positive and hopeful aspects of situations, or are my reactions invariably negative and destructively critical?
Do I act and speak as though I believed in the Good News, or do I spread my pessimism and gloom to others?
Do I live life with zest and enjoyment, or have I succumbed to apathy and indifference?
Do I accept my christian vocation to bring light and flavor to my world, or am I content with a non-demanding mediocrity?

RESPONSE : Forgive us, Lord, and grant that we may extend to others the mercy we ask of you.

CONFESSION Let each one try to identify a root sin that needs to be brought to the light of Grace and set in focus for our Advent journey.

COMMUNAL RESPONSE "Lord Have Mercy" Sung

ABSOLUTION Eucharist is an act of Praise and Reconciliation and Thanksgiving

HYMN